

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 06897 081113Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 COME-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 TRSE-00

RSC-01 /017 W

----- 035398

R 081045Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7350

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 6897

FOR NEA/AFN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, TS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE METHANOL PLANT IN TUNISIA

1. EMBOFF LOGAN HAS RECEIVED COPY OF COMMERCIAL TELEGRAM FROM ALLEN POWELL, PROJECT MANAGER CONSOLIDATED NATURAL GAS SERVICE CO., AND D'ARNOLD DAVIS, ATTORNEY, BOTH OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, ASKING HIM TO "EXPEDITE DISCUSSION" RE SUBJECT PLANT PRIOR TO APPARENT CONVERSATIONS TO BE HELD WITH NEA/AFN IN WASHINGTON NOV 14-15. POWELL VISITED EMBASSY OCT 21 AND MENTIONED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED UTILIZATION OF TUNISIAN NATURAL GAS AND POSSIBLY UP TO ONE-HALF BILLION CUBIC METERS A YEAR OF ALGERIAN GAS UPON COMPLETION OF ALGERIAN-ITALIAN GAS PIPELINE FOR METHYL FUELS PLANT IN TUNISIA. HE ALSO SUPPLIED COPY OF GENERAL DESCRIPTION FOR 5,000 TON PER DAY MATHANOL PLANT COSTING ROUGHTY \$74 MILLION WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED EARLIER IN YEAR BY MR. DAVIS (COPY BEING POUCHED). POWELL INDICATED DURING OCT. VISIT THAT QUANTITY OF GAS AVAILABLE PROBABLY TOO SMALL SINCE SUCH PLANT WOULD REQUIRE ROUGHLY TWO BILLION CUBIC METERS A YEAR FOR OPTIMUM OPERATION. HE ALSO STATED THAT SINCE FINANCING FOR SUCH A PROJECT FROM US SOURCES IS UNCERTAIN, HE AND DAVIS HOPED FUNDS FROM OIL-PRODUCING ARAB COUNTRIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE BUT WAS TOLD BY TUNISIAN OFFICIALS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 06897 081113Z

THAT SUCH FINANCING WAS UNLIKELY. AFTER THIS BRIEF DIS-

CUSSION, CONVERSATION TURNED TO OTHER POSSIBLE PROJECTS IN TUNISIA TO UTILIZE TUNISIAN NATURAL GAS SUCH AS 60-150 METRIC TONS PER DAY OF LPG WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM EL BORMA FIELD AND POSSIBLE CONVERSION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO USE COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS AS FUEL INSTEAD OF LIQUID HYDROCARBONS.

2. UPON LEAVING EMBASSY, MR. POWELL SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THESE VARIOUS PROJECTS FURTHER WITH NEW PRESIDENT DIRECTOR GENERAL ROUROU OF NATIONAL OIL CO. (ETAP). ALTHOUGH HE HAD INDICATED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO REPORT BACK TO EMBASSY RESULTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLY PROVIDE EMBASSY COPY OF FOLLOW-UP LETTER WHICH EMBOFF SUGGESTED HE SHOULD SEND TO CONFIRM THE RESULTS OF MEETINGS HE MIGHT HAVE WITH ROUROU OR ANY OTHER SENIOR OFFICIAL, MR. POWELL DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR CUH DISCUSSIONS BEFORE DEPARTURE NOR HAS EMBASSY RECEIVED COPIES OF ANY CORRESPONDENCE.

3. COMMENT: OUR DISCUSSION WITH MR. POWELL HAD INDICATED THAT CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT PLANT WAS IN VERY PRELIMINARY STAGE. HENCE WE ARE NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR AS TO PURPOSE OF TELEGRAM JUST RECEIVED BY EMBASSY SINCE LITTLE MORE WE CAN ADD TO SUBJECT THAN THAT REPORTED ABOVE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE DEVELOPED IN COURSE OF POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS IN DEPT. ON THIS PROJECT WHICH COULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE VALUE TO BOTH TUNISIA AND US.

SEELYE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATURAL GAS, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974TUNIS06897  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740321-0984  
**From:** TUNIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741157/aaaabwiy.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE METHANOL PLANT IN TUNISIA  
**TAGS:** TECH, ENRG, TS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005